



STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2 SUMMARY

December 3, 2015 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
El Toro Room, Community and Cultural Center

Introduction

Twenty members of Morgan Hill's Bikeway, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) attended the second SAG meeting on December 3. Also in attendance were City staff members including Chris Ghione, Debbie Vasquez, and Nick Calubaquib, and two members of the consulting team, Ellie Fiore and Molly Cooney-Mesker. This was the second in a series of four SAG meetings that will happen throughout the planning process.

The meeting began with a welcome and introductions, followed by an update of pertinent planning initiatives by Community Services Director Chris Ghione. The MIG team presented a summary of the analysis and community engagement completed to date, including findings from intercept surveys, the online Mapita survey, and GIS analysis. The analyses completed by the planning team have revealed that some areas of the city are better served by City parks and that some parks are used more frequently and more favored than others. Results also showed that County parks are frequently used by the Morgan Hill community and that people would like improved bicycle and pedestrian routes to some of the city's popular destinations.

Discussion: Bikeways, Connections and Neighborhood Parks

Following MIG's presentation, SAG members divided into two small groups and discussed their ideas for improving parks and addressing issues in Morgan Hill's bikeways and trail system. The findings of the Mapita survey and geographic analyses were used to guide the discussion. The groups used large maps to annotate where new connections or improvements are needed in Morgan Hill's bicycle network and trails system, including connections to County trails and parks and other regional destinations. MIG facilitators, Ellie Fiore and Molly Cooney-Mesker, recorded the groups' discussions on flip charts and encouraged SAG members to share their ideas by writing and drawing on the maps. The SAG's comments and map annotations are consolidated and summarized below.

PARKS

MIG staff asked the SAG members to share their thoughts on the findings presented by MIG. The following are themes, comments and ideas from the parks discussion.

PARK USE PATTERNS:

- Parks that are popular and frequently used tend to have good paths and/or are connected to trails
- Larger parks that offer a diversity of activities, such as Diana, Nordstrom and Oak Creek Parks are more popular than other parks nearby
- Some organized play groups meet at Diana Park
- Many parks are not visible from roadways and wayfinding and signage is often unclear or confusing
- Inconvenient parking may also affect use of some parks
- Many participants were not aware of new amenities at Galvan Park
- The railroad tracks, Highway 101 and Monterey Road are barriers to reaching parks, especially for children and residents who don't drive and for those that live in the City's northwest neighborhoods
- Large parks tend to attract organized sports groups

USE OF COUNTY PARKS:

- County parks are used for trails that offer distances for long runs and walks
- Currently, County parks do not offer playgrounds or other recreation opportunities for kids. Children's recreation opportunities should be considered for County Parks, based on the high use of County Parks revealed in the Mapita data and the proximity of County to some of Morgan Hill's neighborhoods

DESIRED PARK AMENITIES:

- Include both water fountains and water bottle filling stations in more parks
- Consider adding more dog parks and community gardens throughout the city
- Shaded areas are needed for playgrounds and seating
- Consider including outdoor exercise equipment
- Install slides that don't heat up in the sun
- Install wayfinding signs to increase awareness of parks with low visibility
- Incorporate playful and imaginative elements, including structures such as:

- a large slide for adults and
- features like those in Dennis the Menace Park in Monterey.

PARK SERVICE AREAS:

- Some areas shown as underserved are largely industrial and commercial
- There is still a need for outdoor spaces for employees in these areas
- HOA parks are likely meeting some needs for local residents

PARK POLICY ISSUES:

- There is a need for more restrooms, especially in larger parks
- Consider the role of HOA parks and City parks for serving residents
- Better integrate schools into the park system

BIKEWAYS AND CONNECTIONS

SYSTEMWIDE IMPROVEMENTS

- Create safer connections and crossings at intersections for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Use signage and wayfinding to attract riders from the Coyote Creek Trail into Morgan Hill and to Downtown
- Install “share the road signage”; improve signage and striping on cyclists’ training roads
- Pursue opportunities to connect to a regional trail network and improve the safety of biking on County roads
- Develop more trails like the one in the Paradise Park neighborhood

SPECIFIC ISSUES AND DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

- There is a need for better connections to:
 - Downtown
 - The Wine Trail
 - Gilroy
 - Coyote Creek Trail
- Improve streetscapes where main roads enter the City, especially on Dunne and Tennant to create welcoming gateways into the community
- A safe, comfortable east-west connection across Highway 101 should be a high priority:

- Consider Main or Cochrane
 - Explore solutions that remove bikes and pedestrians from vehicle traffic were feasible
- Pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Cochrane between Hwy 101 and Peet
- Connect and complete paths from Silveira Park, to downtown, then north to Coyote Creek
- Improve the existing path along 101 and the Madrone Channel
- Improve the all intersections of Hwy. 101 with the City's local street network
- Watsonville Road presents a barrier for cyclists to get to Oak Creek Park

BIKEWAY AND TRAIL POLICIES

- Education on safely sharing the road is a need for both bicyclists and drivers
- Develop Class I bikeways that can help improve universal access by creating spaces for motorized wheelchairs and stroller, in addition to bicycles
- Install "share the road signage"; improve signage and stripping on cyclists' training roads

IV. Next Steps

The next SAG meeting will be held on February 11. In the meantime, there will be a Community Workshop on January 28. The project team will provide content about the Community Workshop for SAG members to share with their networks



CITY OF MORGAN HILL

Stakeholder Priorities - Improved + New Connections + Bikeways

Legend

- City Boundary
- New Priority Connections
- New Priority Connections Outside City Boundary
- Priority Improvements
- Priority Improvements Outside City Boundary
- Destinations
- Trails
- Major Roads
- Railroads
- Water Feature
- Public Facility
- City Parks
- Public Open Spaces
- Santa Clara County Parks
- Sphere of Influence
- Santa Clara County

